

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-53 (canceled).

Claim 54 (currently amended): A gaming method for use on a gaming network, said method comprising:

receiving a wager from a player;

allocating a portion of said wager to a bonus pool;

displaying an image representing a first game;

determining whether to initiate a bonus game;

selecting a trivia question and a fixed set of answers associated with the trivia question for the bonus game, the trivia question and the fixed set of answers having a difficulty level selected according to a criterion, the criterion being independent of player preference;

forming a team from a plurality of players;

displaying an image representing the bonus game;

receiving a vote from at least one of the players forming the team at a processing unit on the gaming network, the vote associated with at least one of the fixed set of answers;

determining the answer selection at the processing unit on the gaming network according to the vote received from the at least one of the players forming the team;
and

determining an award based on the answer selection; and

providing said determined award to one or more players forming the team,
wherein said award is provided from the bonus pool.

Claims 55 to 56 (canceled).

Claim 57 (currently amended): The gaming method of claim ~~56~~54 wherein the award comprises the entire bonus pool.

Claim 58 (currently amended): The gaming method of claim ~~56~~54 wherein the award comprises a portion of the bonus pool.

Claim 59 (currently amended): The gaming method of claim ~~56~~54 wherein determining whether to initiate a bonus game comprises determining if a qualification for the player to enter the bonus game has occurred, and further comprises: setting a stake in the bonus pool for the player in the bonus game according to the qualification.

Claim 60 (canceled).

Claim 61 (currently amended): The gaming method of claim 54 further comprising:

- receiving a wager from a second player;
- allocating a portion of said wager from the second player to the bonus pool;
- determining whether to initiate a bonus game for the second player;
- selecting a second trivia question and a second fixed set of answers associated with the second trivia question for the bonus game for the second player, the second trivia question and the second fixed set of answers having a difficulty level selected according to a criterion;
- displaying an image representing the bonus game for the second player;
- receiving a second answer selection from the second player of one of the second fixed set of answers; and
- determining a second award based on the second answer selection.

Claim 62 (currently amended): The gaming method of claim 61 wherein determining a the second award comprises determining a the second award from a the

bonus pool generated at least in part through the wager received from the player and the wager received from the second player.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The gaming method of claim 54 wherein receiving a wager from a player comprises receiving a wager from a player via one of a coin acceptor, a bill receiver and a card reader.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The gaming method of claim 54 wherein determining whether to initiate a bonus game comprises determining one of a combination of reels, a hand in video poker and a hand in video blackjack.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The gaming method of claim 54 wherein the first game comprises one of a video slot game, a video poker game, a video blackjack game, a video Keno game, and a video bingo game.

Claim 66 (previously presented): A gaming system comprising:

a display unit;

a wager input device;

a player input device; and

at least one processing unit operably coupled to the display unit, the wager input device, the player input device and a memory,

the at least one processing unit configured to:

(a) ~~receiving~~ receive a wager via the wager input device from a player;

(b) ~~allocating~~ a portion of said wager to a bonus pool;

(c) ~~the at least one processing unit causing~~ cause the display unit to display an image representing a first game;

(d) ~~the at least one processing unit determining~~ determine whether to initiate a bonus game;

(e) ~~the at least one processing unit selecting~~ select a trivia question and a fixed set of answers associated with the trivia question for the bonus game, the

trivia question and the fixed set of answers having a difficulty level selected according to a criterion, the criterion being independent of player preference;

(f) ~~the at least one processing unit displaying~~ display an image representing the bonus game;

(g) ~~the at least one processing unit forms~~ form a team from a plurality of players;

(h) ~~the at least one processing unit receives~~ receive a vote from at least one of the players forming the team, the vote associated with at least one of the fixed set of answers;

(i) ~~the at least one processing unit determines~~ determine the answer selection according to the vote received from the at least one of the players forming the team;

and

(j) ~~the at least one processing unit determining~~ determine an award based on the answer selection; and

(k) provide said determined award to one or more players forming the team, wherein said award is provided from the bonus pool.

Claim 67 (canceled).

Claim 68 (canceled).

Claim 69 (currently amended): The gaming system of claim ~~68~~66 wherein the award comprises the entire bonus pool.

Claim 70 (currently amended): The gaming system of claim ~~68~~66 wherein the award comprises a portion of the bonus pool.

Claim 71 (currently amended). The gaming system of claim ~~68-66~~ wherein:

the at least one processing unit is configured to ~~determines~~ determine if a qualification for the player to enter to the bonus game has occurred; and

~~the at least one processing unit sets~~ set a stake in the bonus pool for the player in the bonus game according to the qualification.

Claim 72 (canceled).

Claim 73 (currently amended): The gaming system of claim 66 wherein the at least one processing unit is configured to:

~~receives~~ receive a wager from a second player;

allocate a portion of said wager from the second player to the bonus pool;

~~determines~~ determine whether to initiate a bonus game for the second player;

~~selects~~ select a second trivia question and a second fixed set of answers associated with the second trivia question for the bonus game for the second player, the second trivia question and the second fixed set of answers having a difficulty level selected according to a criterion;

~~displays~~ display an image representing the bonus game for the second player;

~~receives~~ receive a second answer selection from the second player of one of the second fixed set of answers; and

~~determines~~ determine a second award based on the second answer selection.

Claim 74 (currently amended): The gaming system of claim 73 wherein the at least one processing unit is configured to ~~determines~~ determine the second award from ~~a~~ the bonus pool generated at least in part through the wager received from the player and the wager received from the second player.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The gaming system of claim 66 wherein the wager input device comprises one of a coin acceptor, a bill receiver and a card reader.

Claim 76 (currently amended): The gaming system of claim 66 wherein the at least one processing unit is configured to ~~determines~~ determine whether to initiate the bonus game based on one of a combination of reels, a hand in video poker and a hand in video blackjack.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The gaming system of claim 66 wherein the game is one of a video slot game, a video poker game, a video blackjack game, a video Keno game, and a video bingo game.

Claim 78 (previously presented): The gaming method of claim 54, wherein the criterion comprises a random selection.

Claim 79 (previously presented): The gaming method of claim 54, wherein the criterion comprises a past performance of the player.

Claim 80 (currently amended): The gaming method of claim 54, wherein the criterion comprises a status in the bonus game.

Claim 81 (previously presented): The gaming system of claim 66, wherein the criterion comprises a random selection:

Claim 82 (previously presented): The gaming system of claim 66, wherein the criterion comprises a past performance of the player.

Claim 83 (previously presented): The gaming system of claim 66, wherein the criterion comprises a status in the bonus game.